IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of measuring the size of a distributed system of interconnected servers, said method comprising the steps of:

for each said server, forming a first weighted asymptotic function of the count of CPUs installed in said each said server, and a CPU factor based on said server architecture and operating system;

for each said server, forming a second weighted asymptotic function of the amount of random access memory installed on said each said server, and a normalizing factor representing a reference date, and a RAM factor based on said server architecture and operating system;

forming a product of said first weighted asymptotic function for said each said server; and

forming the sum of said product for all said interconnected server.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of allocating support manpower based on said sum.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first weighted asymptotic function is represented as f_{cpu} and is of the form:

$F_{CPU} = A(x) + e_x$.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the second weighted asymptotic function is represented as f_{RAM} and is of the form:

$F_{RAM} = A(x) + e_x$.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the reference date represents a base reference year RAM.

6. (Original) A system for measuring the size of a distributed system of interconnected servers, said system comprising:

means for forming, for each said server, a first weighted asymptotic function of the count of CPUs installed in said each said server, and a CPU factor based on said server architecture and operating system;

means for forming, for each said server, a second weighted asymptotic function of the amount of random access memory installed on said each said server, and a normalizing factor representing a reference date, and a RAM factor based on said server architecture and operating system;

means for forming a product of said first weighted asymptotic function for said each said server; and

means for forming the sum of said product for all said interconnected servers.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, further comprising wherein support manpower is allocated based on said sum.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the first weighted asymptotic function is represented as f_{CPU} and is of the form:

$F_{CPU} = A(x) + e_x$.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the second weighted asymptotic function is represented as f_{RAM} and is of the form:

$F_{RAM} = A(x) + e_x$.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the reference date represents a base reference year RAM.

11. (Original) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for measuring the size of a distributed system of interconnected servers, said method steps comprising:

for each said server, forming a first weighted asymptotic function of the count of CPUs installed in said each said server, and a CPU factor based on said server architecture and operating system;

for each said server, forming a second weighted asymptotic function of the amount of random access memory installed on said each said server, and a normalizing factor representing a reference date, and a RAM factor based on said server architecture and operating system;

forming a product of said first weighted asymptotic function for said each said server; and

forming the sum of said product for all said interconnected servers.

12. (Original) The program storage device of Claim 11, wherein said method steps further comprise the step of allocating support manpower based on said sum.

13. (Original) The program storage device of Claim 11, wherein the first weighted asymptotic function is represented as f_{cpu} and is of the form:

$F_{CPU} = A(x) + e_x$.

14. (Original) The program storage device of Claim 11, wherein the second weighted asymptotic function is represented as f_{RAM} and is of the form:

$F_{RAM} = A(x) + e_x$.

15. (Original) The program storage device of Claim 11, wherein the reference date represents a base reference year RAM.

16. (New) A method for measuring the size of a distributed system of interconnected servers, the system including plural central processing units, and an amount of random access memory, the method comprising the steps of:

computing a relative power measurement, F_x, for the system by using the equation:

$$F_x = (1 + w_c \cdot \log_2(c) \pm e_c) \cdot (1 + w_r \log_2(r/R_y) \pm e_r)$$

Where:

F_x is the relative power measurement,.

w_c is a weighing factor dependent on F_x and based on the Central Processing Units (CPUs) installed on the system,

w_r is a weighing factor dependent on F_x and based on the amount of Random Access Memory (RAM) installed on the system,

c is the count of CPUs installed on the system,

r is the count of RAM installed on the system in units of megabytes (MB) divided by c, the count of CPUs installed on the system,

R_y is a normalization factor which represents the base reference year RAM,

e_c is a CPU estimating factor based on the system architecture and operating system, and

e_r is a RAM estimating factor based on the system architecture and operating system;

providing a means to normalize a comparison of one of said servers to another of said servers, including the steps of:

i) measuring a relative size of each of said one and said another server by, for each of said one and said another server (1) calculating a value SIPR – (#CPUs) x (RAM GB) x I/O, where #CPUs is the number of CPUs on the server, RAM GB is the size of the RAM on the server in units of gigabytes and I/O is a factor representing the number of input/output cards in the server, (2) providing a table for converting SIPR values to SIPC values, (3) using said table to convert the calculated SIPR value to a corresponding SIPC value, (4) assigning a relative weight to the corresponding SIPC value to obtain a weighted SIPC value;

ii) for each of said one and said another server, assigning a weighted application value to the server based on the type of applications run on the server;

iii) for each of said one and said another server, multiplying the weighted SIPC value for the server and the weighted application value for the server to obtain a normalized weight of the server; and

iv) comparing the normalized weights of said one and said another of the server.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein:

in said table, an SIPR value less than or equal to 1 is converted to an SIPC value of more than 1, but less than or equal to 2 is converted to an SIPC value of 2, an SIPR value of more than 2, but less than or equal to 25 is converted to an SIPC value of 3, an SIPR value of more than 25, but less than or equal to 100 is converted to an SIPC value of four, and an SIPR value of more than 100 but less than or equal to 512 is converted to an SIPC value of 5;

the server provides file and print functions, and the another server provides database functions; and

the step of assigning a weighted application value to the server includes the steps of:

i) providing a group of categories, said group consisting of three categories: simple, medium and complex,

ii) rating said one server as a simple server, and

iii) rating said another server as a complex server.